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**THE LOCAL RAG**

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the  
September Edition  
Volume 20 Issue 8  
2023



Alverdiscott Flower Show Cup - Won by Pat Broughton in 2023

**Publication and Distribution**

The **Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Local Rag** is produced by the Editor Elsie Potter and Assistant Editor David Potter and is distributed, free, by a team of volunteers to every residence in our area. Finance is provided by the Parish Council, income from advertisers and donations from community organisations and individuals. Local reporting is easy -

**e-mail your items to:**

[thelocal.rag@btinternet.com](mailto:thelocal.rag@btinternet.com)

or drop in to Webbery Cross Cottage. The more articles you send the more likely the Local Rag is to continue.

The date for inclusion in the next issue is **20th of each month**. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or amend any article submitted. Any article published does not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team.

The Local Rag

Webbery Cross Cottage

Webbery

EX39 4PU

Phone 01271 858534

e-mail [thelocal.rag@btinternet.com](mailto:thelocal.rag@btinternet.com)

**From The Assistant Editor**

It's September and already it feels a bit like Autumn has arrived. Some of our trees are beginning to shed their leaves already.

It could also be said to be the time for Harvest Lunches, Suppers and Services as the adverts in this issue will show.

The Cream Tea and Cake "do" at the Chapel was a great success, thank you to all who came along.

And it's not too soon I hope, to mention the Big Breakfast in October - details on p14.

**Memorial Garden**

The committee of Alverdiscott Hall have, for some time, been talking about creating a memorial garden in

the grounds of the hall. The idea being to recognise the local folk within our community who have, over the years, been closely involved with the running of the hall.

Well, work is finally planned to start at the end of August. Initially there will be a paved area. We will then add a bench and some plants and shrubs or trees.

And finally, a question for you all:

Why is it that wood pigeons spend so much time **walking** about on our roads???

Don't they know it's dangerous? Have they forgotten they can fly? Is it evolution in progress? Answers on a postcard please... Personally, I think they're just stupid!

**MUSICAL LUNCHES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

Our popular monthly Musical Lunches are continuing to please.

They are normally on the last Friday of the month and will hopefully continue until October.

The next one will be on 29th September.

A Light lunch will be available from 12.30pm with music from 1pm.

We will be presenting different types of music each month. If you haven't been before why not come and give it a try. There is no charge for the event, we just ask for a donation. All money raised goes towards the upkeep of the church.

**Emergencies**

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Gas	0800 111 999
Water	0344 346 2020
RSPCA	0300 123 4999
Calor Gas	0345 744 4999

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Bideford Hospital	01271 322577
Torrington Hospital	01805 622208

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**Local Hall Bookings & Enquiries**

**Alverdiscott Hall** David Potter  
01271 858534

**Huntshaw Parish Hall** Jenny Staines  
01805 624490

[huntshawparishhall@outlook.com](mailto:huntshawparishhall@outlook.com)

**Community Contacts****Advice Lines**

<b>Police</b>	<b>101</b>
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
CAB	01805 626126
FCN	03000 111999

Samaritans - Free from any phone 116 123

Western Power Enq. 0800 0963080

North Devon Council 01271 327711

Torrige DC 01237 428700

**Coronavirus Test Line 119**

Sandra Brown PCSO

[30096@dc.police.uk](mailto:30096@dc.police.uk)

**Your local neighbourhood policing team at Torrington Police Station email address:**

[torridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:torridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

For routine messages that **do not** require prompt action.

**ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL**

**BIG BREAKFAST**



**POSSIBLY THE BEST BREAKFAST IN NORTH DEVON**

**\*\*\*\*\*SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER\*\*\*\*\***

**From 9.00am to 1.00pm  
Adults £8, under 12s £5**

**TURN UP AND TUCK IN**

**Alverdiscott Flower and Produce Show**

Cup Winners in 2023

Alverdiscott Flower Show Cup	Most Points Veg & Fruit	Pat Broughton
Bearman Cup	Most Points Flowers	Philip Heath
Novelty Growers Cup	Most Points	Hannah Swann
Luxton Cup	Most Points Cookery	Liz Moore
Payne Cup	Most Point Arts & Crafts	Jeanette Matthews
Boyd Cup	Most Points Photography	Adam Swann
Under 16yrs Childrens Cup	Most Points	Morgin Alexander
Thorne Cup	Best Exhibit Veg & Fruit	Tick & Julie Moore
Bateman Cup	Best Exhibit Flowers	Louise Saunders
Staines Cup	Best Exhibit Vase Roses	Joyce Ley
Criddle Cup	Best Exhibit Sweet Peas	Hannah Swann
Johnson Cup	Best Exhibit Streptocarpus	Philip Heath
JJ Cup	Best Exhibit Floral Art	Tick & Julie Moore
Garden Club Cup	Best Exhibit	Philip Squire
Goodall Cup	Best Exhibit Cookery	Barbara Ford
Broughton Cup	Best Exhibit Photography	Adam Swann

**A message from the Rector**

**Stay Curious**

For many people growing up today, the Christian faith is a complete mystery. Some people have never set foot inside a church or read even a small portion of the bible. It does not mean that they are uninterested in spirituality, just uninformed.

Other people say to me that they went to church often as a child (sometimes three times each Sunday!) but this only served to inoculate them! They've "done church" and have dismissed Christianity as a result.

This autumn, along with churches across the UK we are inviting people to 'stay curious' and investigate the Christian faith, maybe for the first time, or maybe with a fresh curiosity and open eyes, by joining one of our Alpha courses.

Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's invited, no matter what their background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

We're offering 3 Alphas, starting in the week beginning 18th September; two for adults and one for young people:

**Mondays, 10.00am in the Hunters Inn, Newton Tracey**

Coffee from 10.00am, session starts at 10.15am, finishes 11.15am.

**Mondays, 7.45pm in Beaford village hall**

Cheese and wine from 7.45pm, session starts at 8.00pm, finishes at 9.00pm.

**Wednesdays, 6.30pm in High Bickington Church Hall (for school years 8+)**

Starts with a meal followed by the main session.

We'd love to invite you to join us for the first session to "come and see", with no obligation to return if it's not for you.

For more information or to book a place email [2RMCOffice@gmail](mailto:2RMCOffice@gmail.com), call Rev Gary 07947 358050 or speak to your local minister.

*Rev Gary Owen*

01769 560792 07947 358050 [www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org](http://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org)

**Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel**

**Coffee Morning**

The August coffee morning raised £100 for the Buranpur Hospital appeal. **On Thursday 7 September all money raised will go to the RNL station Appledore.** Then on 5 October we will be raising money for the North Devon Hospice. Please do come along - between 10am and noon - to support our worthwhile causes.

**Garden Club**

Garden Club meetings are on the last Monday of each month (except Bank Holidays when it will normally be the Monday before) at 2.30pm in the chapel schoolroom. On 21 August we plan to visit the garden of Paul and Carol Booth in Horwood. And on Monday 25th September we plan to visit the garden of Mr and Mrs Tim Overton at West Woodlands. Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00.

**Arts and Craft Group**

**Due to declining numbers the Arts and Crafts group is now closed. Thank you to all who have supported it in the past.**



***Cream Tea and Cakes***

**The Cream Tea and Cake** event on Saturday at Alverdiscott Chapel was a great success. Well over 70 people came along and enjoyed themselves meeting old friends and making some new ones. All while they munched their way through umpteen scones, cut rounds and various yummy cakes. Not forgetting the many cups of tea and coffee. Thank you to all who attended and raised a goodly amount towards chapel funds.

Of course, thanks also go to those who organized it all, and to the chapel members who pitched in and made it all work. It was a really good afternoon, and enjoyed by all.



**Leisure**

**Local Bike Rides**



As a local resident and keen but not too serious a cyclist, I was wondering if anyone is interested in forming a local cycle group to enjoy our local beautiful countryside? Nothing too serious, just social bike rides to enjoy.

**If you are interested please drop an email to Nigel Davies at [b\\_davies6@sky.com](mailto:b_davies6@sky.com)**

**A Few More Witty One-Liners**

**The Commandments for Seniors...**

You don't need anger management. You need people to stop ticking you off.

Your people skills are fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

"On time" is when you get there.

Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.

It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes, and come out wrinkle-free and 3 sizes smaller.

Lately, have you noticed, people your age are so much older than you...?

**Last time the word was: EIDERDOWN**

Only For Fun. You have 15 minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters shown in the grid. Each word must contain four or more letters, one of which must be the central square. No letter may be used more than once in each word. No proper nouns, plurals or foreign words allowed. There is one nine letter word for which the clue is - Abode

D	R	S
C	E	N
E	E	I

Word count 29 = Good. More than 35 = Well done!

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 200

Good Luck...

3			8			4		9
5				3				
9			7		2	5		
								7
			4		3			2
	8	6				9		
				1		8		4
				4			2	1
		3			8			

Solution to Su Doku No. 199

9	6	3	7	1	8	2	4	5
8	7	4	6	5	2	3	9	1
5	1	2	9	3	4	6	8	7
1	4	7	5	2	9	8	3	6
2	3	8	4	6	7	5	1	9
6	5	9	1	8	3	7	2	4
3	9	1	8	7	5	4	6	2
7	8	6	2	4	1	9	5	3
4	2	5	3	9	6	1	7	8

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792

07947 358050



Huntsraw Church Services

Sunday 10th September at 11.00am

Sunday 24th September at 2.00pm – Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating harvest festival at 2.00pm on Sunday 24th September following the village harvest lunch. All are welcome, whether you've been to lunch or not, as we plough the fields and scatter in a short, traditional, harvest service.

You can find out more at -

[www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org](http://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org)

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

Services planned for Alverdiscott Chapel in Sept & Oct.

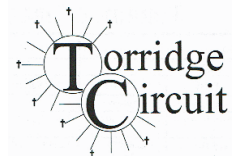
03 September	10.30am	Circuit Service at Torrington
10 September	11.00am	Duncan Withall
17 September	11.00am	Paul Bate
01 October	11.00am	Rev Blackhall Harvest Service
15 October	11.00am	Rev Hill HC
29 October	11.00am	US at Parish Church

Information about the Methodist Church

can be found here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>

<http://torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk/>



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**Huntsraw’s Bells are coming Home!**



After being at **Taylor’s Bell Foundry** in Loughborough for the past 18 months Huntsraw’s bells are due to return next month. On Monday 17th October they shall return and, over that week be put back in place ready to ring out once more for church services and other events.

They were taken out in March 22 with a view to being refurbished and reinstalled that following winter, but with bats in the tower we missed the 1st April deadline and so couldn’t bring them back until after 1st Oct of this year.

It’s been about 60 years since all three have rung out... and 15 or 20 years for just the one. But having done some sympathetic strengthening of the 600-year-old bell frame in Feb we can now confidently say it will be safe to have them ringing once more. The plan is to fit wheels to all 3 with just one rope attached to the treble bell to swing chime, but all 3 will have electronic hammers to allow them to chime in a stationary position. At the end of the week of re-hanging, Taylors will assess if the strengthening work to the frame is good enough to allow all 3 to swing chime, and if so then they’ll let all 3 bells have ropes.

The oldest bell is the tenor, weighing half a tonne and was cast in 1505 in Bristol by Thomas Gefferies. The other two were cast either side of the English Civil War during Charles’ reigns, in 1634 and 1665. (They replaced the earlier bells that were installed when the tower was built in 1439.

If you want to come and see all 3 bells, newly graphite washed and at ground level in the church before they’re hoisted up the best time will be on Monday morning 17th October.

And on that note, we shall be needing help from volunteers on a rota over the 5 days with morning and afternoon slots to help the bell hanger with ‘lifting, carrying, and holding etc., down to just helping in making cups of tea.’ We did this last time to take the bells out and it was great fun, I will be phoning around those that helped last time, but all offers of help will be gratefully received.

On Sunday 19th November 2023 the Bishop of Crediton at 2pm will be leading a Service of Thanksgiving for the restoration of the bells – during which the bells will be rung out in peal for the first time. (*The Bishop of Exeter was looking forward to coming but he will have retired by then*).

After the service there will be refreshments in the Parish Hall to which all will be welcome.

**Richard Sears - September 2023.**

## Parish Council News

**Notice of Parish Council Meetings**

Two vacancies have arisen on the parish council, one to represent Alverdiscott, and the other for Huntshaw. Council meetings will now take place **every other month on the third Thursday**, alternating between the two village halls.

**The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st September at 7:30pm in Alverdiscott Community Hall.**

We would welcome those interested in becoming a councillor, and invite you to come along and give a **(very!)** short presentation about yourself.

Graham White - Chairman.

**Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers**

Graham White - Chairman	01271 858441
Liz Meaney - Vice Chairman	01805 624990
Bernard Hardwicke	01271 858676
Helen Bolton	01271 858885
Caroline Lewis	07890 764234
Gill Ross	01271 858392
James White	01271 858580
Paul Matthews	01271 858652
Alan Matthewman - Parish Clerk	01769 560740

E&amp;OE

Parish Clerk email [alvhuntpc@gmail.com](mailto:alvhuntpc@gmail.com) **Please note new address**

Parish Council Facebook page: [@alverdiscotthuntshaw](https://www.facebook.com/alverdiscotthuntshaw)

Parish Council Website: <https://alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk>

*The Local Rag is available to view on the PC website*

**County and District Councillors and Police & Crime Commissioner****County Councillor**

Linda Hellyer [linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk) 07828 758360

**District Councillors**

Rosemary Lock [councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk) 01805 804254

Thomas Elliott [councillor.elliott@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:councillor.elliott@torridge.gov.uk)

**PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**

Alison Hernandez [alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk](mailto:alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk) 01392 459808

## ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL

## HARVEST SUPPER



FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

7PM FOR 7.30PM

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### **Advertising in your Local Rag is easy and produces great results.**

210 Local Rags are distributed every month, some even find their way out of the local area. The Rag is also available to view on the Parish Council website, all for a very reasonable annual fee.

Small-ad's and items for sale are usually included free of charge.

Call or email for full details.



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### **Friends of All Saints Church Supporters Club – August Draw Prize Winners**

1st	Pat Broughton	£25
2nd	Lisa Espadas	£15
3rd	Cath and Ian Ratcliffe	£10

If you are not a member but would like to join please contact Louise Saunders on 01271 858522 or, [louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com](mailto:louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com). The cost of a year's membership is £12. As a member you will be helping us to keep our church in good order and stand the chance of winning a monthly prize. All Members also receive the monthly Newsletter.

## **Come and Celebrate**

### **"Harvest in Huntshaw"**



Our *Harvest Lunch* is on  
Sunday 24th September - 12 noon.



Weather permitting in the churchyard.

£10 pp - please text Jenny to book your lunch  
on 07785 921371.



*There will also be a short Harvest Service in the Church at 2 pm  
should you wish to attend. More details on p5.*